

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /184 W

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R 261235Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L FORT LAMY 1628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CD

SUBJ: OFFICIAL REACTION TO FRENCH POLICY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS

REF: FORT LAMY 1599

1. EDITORIAL IN LATEST ISSUE OF WEEKLY "CANAED DECHAINE" MAKES
SCATHING ATTACK ON FRENCH FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENTS.

UNDER TITLE "FRENCH WORD," WRITER, WHOM WE SUPPOSE TO BE
TOMBALBAYE HIMSELF, HEAPS SCORN ON FRANCE'S CLAIM TO HAVE
RESPECTED ITS COMMITMENTS TO CHAD. HE IMPLIES THAT PROMISES
MADE BY POMPIDOU IN VISIT TO CHAD IN 1972 HAVE NEVER BEEN

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FULFILLED. HE TAKES ISSUE WITH DENIAU'S INTERPRETATION OF

TOMBALBAYE'S CRITICISM OF FRENCH "COOPERANTS" WHO USE THEIR POSITIONS TO INTERFERE IN CHADIAN AFFAIRS. CONVERSELY, EDITORIAL MAKES BIZARRE CHARGE THAT FRENCH FORCES SENT TO FIGHT AGAINST FROLINANT IN FACT CHANNELED ARMS TO THE OUTLAWS. HOWEVER, NOW THAT CHAD HAS DECIDED TO TAKE ITS OWN DESTINY IN HAND THROUGH MNRCS, SAYS EDITORIALIST, FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO PULL OUT SOME QUOTE FORTY UNQUOTE FRENCHMEN WHO HAVE BEEN EXERCISING DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHADIAN ADMINISTRATION. EDITORIAL SAYS GOC HAS NEVER COMPLAINED ABOUT THESE PEOPLE... "THEIR LOYALTY AND THEIR DEVOTION TO OUR GOVERNMENT HAVING BEEN FAULTLESS AND MOREOVER JUSTIFYING REAL COOPERATION." EDITORIAL SAYS THAT AFTER THESE GOOD MEN HAVE GONE ONLY FRENCHMEN LEFT WILL BE FOCCART'S DRUNKEN BAND WITH THEIR SORDID APPETITES. CONCLUDES BY SAYING, "IF OUR GOVERNMENT COMMITS THE MISTAKE OF AGREEING THAT THE PERSONNEL IN QUESTION BE UNILATERALLY RECALLED THERE WILL BE NO REASON WHY THE TOURISTS, VACATIONERS AND OTHER AGENTS OF DOPELE WHO, UNDER COVER OF ASSISTANTS, FILL OUR OFFICES, OUR SWIMMING POOLS, OUR WORK SITES, SHOULD BE RETAINED HERE. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN FRANCE HAD A WORD OF HONOR. IT SEEMS THAT THAT TIME HAS PASSED."

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THOSE FRENCH TECHNICIANS SUBJECT TO RECALL ARE FEW IN NUMBER, WE HAVE HEARD THAT MANY OF THEM OCCUPY KEY POSITIONS WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE OR DIFFICULT TO FILL WITH CHADIANS AND THAT SUCH ROUTINE OPERATIONS AS MEETING THE MILITARY PAYROLL MAY BE AFFECTED. ALTHOUGH WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO VIOLENT VERBAL ATTACKS ON FRENCH POLICY DECISIONS, REACTION TO THIS PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL SEEMS UNUSUALLY BITTER, AND THIS MAY BE AN INDEX OF VALUE TO CHAD OF FRENCH TECHNICIANS AFFECTED BY THE DECISION.
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